Revival of Durgapur Unit of HFCL

2151. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the techno-economical revival package for Durgapur unit of HFCL has been prepared by HFC Corporate management, unit management and employees;

(b) whether the same has been forwarded to the Ministry;

(c) if so, whether the schemes are being examined by a Group of Ministers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any special step is being taken by Government to revive Durgapur unit which is the only Urea producing unit in West Bengal; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) The operations of the Durgapur Unit had to be suspended in 1997 due to fire in the primary reformer top. The sustained and viable operations of this unit is not feasible unless a complete revamp of the plant is undertaken, which, however, is hampered by budgetary constraints and high cost of production. The rehabilitation proposal of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (HFC) including the Durgapur unit was considered by the competent authority in the Government on 31.5.2001 and a Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted to examine the proposal and submit its recommendations.

HFC was declared a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in 1992 under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1965. The rehabilitation of the

Durgapur unit is dependent on the decision of the competent authority in the Government, the recommendations of the GOM and the final outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR.

Decline in Growth of Pharma Industry

2152. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been decline of growth in pharma industry during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are likely to encourage the pharma industry in order to increase the growth rate in the industry; and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The Drug Policy, 1986 is directed towards creating an environment conducive to channelising new investment into the pharmaceutical industry, to encouraging cost-effective production with economic sizes, and to introducing new technologies and new drugs; and strengthening the indigenous capability for production of drugs. A Committee, namely, the Drug Price Control Review Committee was set up to review the present price control mechanism with a view to reducing the rigours of price control, where they had become counter productive. Another Committee, the Pharmaceutical Research & Development Committee was set up to recommend measures to strengthen the research & development capability of the Pharmaceutical Industry in the country and identify the support required by Indian Pharmaceutical companies to undertake domestic R&D. Both the Committees have since submitted their reports suggesting measures in that direction. Changes in the Drug Policy will